

# MSNA Newsletter

*Missouri Special Needs Association*

*A Division of Missouri Association for Career and Technical Education (MO ACTE)*

*January 2008*

## MO-ACTE

### " WHAT DO THESE LETTERS MEAN TO ME?"

PAM MADISON, PRESIDENT

When I started my career in education, I had no idea I would eventually work my way into Career and Technical Education. I actually happened to get here based on some changes in my district and the fact that I had a knack for working with "At Risk" students. I had never heard of MO-ACTE, or MSNA. Upon making the transition, I was immediately contacted about going to the annual conference so that I could learn a bit more about what I was going to be doing. Being a little nervous, I decided to attend, and how it has changed my life. I have never felt more confident about what I do or the fact that I can truly make a difference. MO-ACTE has afforded me the opportunity to work to improve myself as an educator and a person. I feel more confident than ever that by being involved, what I say is not just being heard, but being HEARD. I have truly learned more about education, how it works in many aspects and made some great contact as well as friends.

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After deciding I was going to write this article, I decided you need to also hear from other people, my words were only echoed in the responses I received. I heard from people about how they feel it enhances their career experience. They are able to network with others about common concerns. They also felt it had opened the communications with DESE professionals and kept them more informed on education politically. Professionally we also felt we had truly been afforded the opportunity to be proactive verses reactive and leaders in education.

As you can see, MO-ACTE and MSNA are more than just organizations that look good on your resume, they are OPPORTUNITIES!!! If you have not taken the time to join MO-ACTE or MSNA, please do so. Share in the experience and let yourself be heard!!

## **IMPROVING THINGS FOR ITS MEMBERSHIP**

HENRY CHILDS, PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

I am glad to announce that Missouri Special Needs Associate has agreed to produce a MSNA CERTIFICATE OF ATTENDANCE for the summer MOACTE CONFERENCE . It is presently in the developmental stages and format and design is being worked out. Participants will now be able to provide documentation to their School Districts of their attendance at the conference. I feel the certificate represents a sense of accomplishment and provide documentation for Professional Development, Career Ladder and Continuing Education etc. Cheers to MSNA (Let's Keep improving).



## **VIVA LAS VEGAS**

PAM MADISON, MSNA PRESIDENT

Wow, three years in a row, and this was the best yet!!! It wasn't so easy getting there or back, but I had a great time! I do want you to know the only money I lost was \$10 that I dropped some place. It wasn't because I won money; I chose to refrain from the temptation. I know many of you are saying, " She went to Vegas and didn't gamble" you're right! I spent all my money at the Cowboy Christmas!!!! However, it wasn't all pleasure, the conference was stacked with tons of great workshops and I came home even more excited and ready to get back to improving what we need to in an attempt to make our students more successful.

I would encourage each of you to mark your calendars for the 2008 ACTE Convention, which will be held in Charlotte, NC. I am not sure of the dates, but you can pick up additional information at the ACTE website. Future conference will be held in the following places, so mark our calendar in advance.

2009 – Nashville, TN

2010 – Las Vegas, NV

2011 – St. Louis, MO

In the meantime keep up the great work you do everyday!!!!!!



## **BUSY TIME OF YEAR—RECRUITMENT!**

PAM MADISON, PRESIDENT

WOW! I can't believe we are already knocking on the door of second semester. This year has flown by. Even though most of us feel we have been completely overwhelmed, I think our busiest time of the year is yet to come. When we, at Lex La-Ray return from our Christmas break, it is time to jump in and prepare for sophomore tours, CTE month, Skills USA competition and more.

In January, we will be hosting sophomores from our nine sending schools in activities that will assist them with learning about options provided at our campus. The schools will bring students to our facility for one day, giving them the opportunity to hear about current job markets, career opportunities, and programs available at Lex La-Ray. The students are then allowed to spend the afternoon in two programs of interest to learn additional information about the program. We have found that this has had an influence on the number of students whom complete applications for the interview process to attend Lex La-Ray. If you would like more information about what we do, please contact me at (660) 259-2264.

## **MO ACTE WORKING TO IMPROVE SUMMER CONFERENCE**

DIANA REYNOLD, PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT

Paul Mackay called the committee meeting to order. All members of the Program Improvement Committee were present. The agenda was reviewed and accepted.

The committee reviewed a draft of a new conference evaluation form. Discussion centered on moving the comment section from back to front, and put the division on top. Additionally it was suggested that all professional development items should be placed on the front and hotel accommodation items on the back. It was also suggested by the committee to put the evaluation on bright colored paper.

A joint meeting was then convened between the Program Improvement Committee, Professional Development Committee, and DESE staff. The purpose was to discuss jointly an effort to join all committees in agreement of conference theme and format.

Donna Vossen suggested Ray McNulty for opening session speaker. Donna commented that his presentation is more appropriate for the rigor, relevance, and relationships. Donna suggested that McNulty can tailor presentation to focus of conference. Paul Mackay suggested combining two topics: "using learning criteria to support rigor, relevance, and relationships" with the "participation gap." Donna contacted Mr. McNulty and he did agree and signed a contract.

The motion passed that the theme of the 2008 conference will be the "The Third R-Relationships."

The Program Improvement Committee will meet again in the spring to interview various Convention and Visitors' Bureau's for new contracts for the conference site.

### **ARTICLES NEEDED**

We are currently seeking articles for the next MSNA newsletter. If you have something you would like to share please submit your article to Terry Timmons at [ttimmons@columbia.k12.mo.us](mailto:ttimmons@columbia.k12.mo.us)

## **WHY TEACH ACADEMICS AT A CAREER/TECHNICAL CENTER**

VICKI KEPHART, MATH INSTRUCTOR & JOANNE HAMILTON, ENGLISH INSTRUCTOR

NORTHLAND CAREER CENTER

Northland Career Center instructors, Vicki Kephart and Joanne Hamilton, began teaching math and English skills twice a day for 30 minutes to each of the NCC programs. The thought is that students are lacking in basic math and English skills necessary to succeed in both the classroom and the workplace. The overall goal is to relate these skills with their overall competencies. We have found students have been more successful at this task because they have seen a connection to their vocational program. Relevance has been a definite motivator and we find increased success when instructors apply our lessons to their classrooms.

## 2008 SUMMER CONFERENCE PLANNING IS UNDERWAY

JULIE GRONNEBERG, CONFERENCE PLANNING

The planning committee met on October 25, 2007! Representatives from MSNA, MSCA, and MACS were present. We reviewed the evaluations from the summer conference. More information will be forthcoming after our next meeting which will be held on December 6<sup>th</sup>. The theme for this year's conference is "The Third R – Relationship."

The room cost at the Oasis Inn & convention Center will be raised to around \$75 for the summer conference. The increase will cover a hot breakfast that will be served daily to all guests of the Oasis.

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION

**If you want to be able to stay at the Oasis Inn & Convention Center for the summer conference send your hotel registration in early!!!!** You can always cancel the reservation if you choose not to attend the conference, but if you register at the last minute, you may be bumped to a different hotel. We will be sharing the Oasis as a headquarters hotel with Trades & Industry. However, the Oasis wants to maintain our business since we have been using them as our headquarter hotel for five years. The Oasis has become a very desirable hotel to stay in since the Linn State social and All Division socials are both held at the Convention Center on the property. *Remember, if you are even thinking of attending the summer conference, send in your hotel registration as soon as you receive the conference information!!!!!!*

Once you arrive at the Oasis for the summer conference, information about the events will be available through a number of sources. You will have your conference program upon registration at the Expo Center. Additionally, when you arrive at the hotel, a flyer will be given to you outlining all of the events times and locations and there will be easels set up in the hotel lobby, near the conference headquarters room and at the Convention Center.

### MO-ACTE CONVENTION 2008

Pam Madison, MSNA President

Are you ready??? The Missouri ACTE Convention is just 6 months away and your executive board is hard at work planning a great conference. On January 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, the executive board members will meet with the MACS and MSCA boards at the Oasis to layout sessions for the summer.

It is not too late to request a topic. If there is something that you feel needs to be addressed at this year's summer conference, please contact one of the board members or myself. In addition, if you know of great presenters, they would also be welcomed. The conference is planned from the responses to evaluation questions and breakout session evaluations. Please take the time to help us make the conference what you want it to be!!! If you have any questions or suggestions drop me a line at [pmadison@lexington.k12.mo.us](mailto:pmadison@lexington.k12.mo.us). I would love to hear from each of you.

## **MSNA AWARD APPLICATIONS COMING SOON**

**MARK SPONAUGLE, MSNA/MO-ACTE AWARDS**

The MSNA award applications have been up-dated for 2008. Shawn Brice or Marsha Ruetters will be sending out the applications. If you wish to contact Mark Sponaugle, [sponauglem@carthage.k12.mo.us](mailto:sponauglem@carthage.k12.mo.us), you could receive your copy of the applications early. The deadline to nominate someone is April 1, 2008. If you have any questions please contact Sponaugle. Mail all applications to

Mark Sponaugle  
Carthage Technical Center  
609 River Street  
Carthage, MO 64836

## **LAMAR VO-TECH FEATURED IN NATIONAL MAGAZINE**

**SAM DELANEY, VOCATIONAL RESOURCE EDUCATOR**

The Lamar Area Vocational Technical School is featured in the Winter 2008 edition of SkillsUSA Champions magazine. The last page of the magazine features "Image" which "looks for images of SkillsUSA chapters in action, or the kind that shows individual members' concentration or perseverance."

The picture, which was submitted by Sam DeLaney, shows the health occupations class from LAVTS presenting dental hygiene to elementary students. For this winning image, the chapter will receive \$150.00.

This can also be viewed on the SkillsUSA national website at [www.skillsusa.org](http://www.skillsusa.org).

## **IMPORTANT LINKS**

[www.dese.mo.gov/divcareerec/sn](http://www.dese.mo.gov/divcareerec/sn)  
[www.dese.mo.gov/divcareerec/sn\\_special\\_needs\\_directory.htm](http://www.dese.mo.gov/divcareerec/sn_special_needs_directory.htm)  
[www.mo-acte.org](http://www.mo-acte.org)

## **NEWSLETTER ON THE WEB**

The MSNA Newsletter is now on the DESE/Career Education/Special Needs Web site. Just go to the following web address—[www.dese.mo.gov/divcareered/sn\\_special\\_needs\\_newsletter.htm](http://www.dese.mo.gov/divcareered/sn_special_needs_newsletter.htm) and check it out. The MSNA Board has discussed numerous times about the possibility of making the newsletter available on-line. Please let us know which way you would prefer to receive the newsletter. Contact Terry Timmons, [ttimmons@columbia.k12.mo.us](mailto:ttimmons@columbia.k12.mo.us) and give her your opinion. This is **YOUR** newsletter and we want to meet your needs.

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